

Remarks

Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Gregory et al. Claims 2-7 and 10-15 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claims 8 and 16 are allowed.

Claims 2 and 10 have been canceled and claims 1 and 9 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 10, respectively. Similarly, claims 6 and 14 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to put them into independent form. Other claims have been amended to correct the dependency.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments put the remaining claims into allowable form.

The application has been amended to further distinguish the application over the prior art, and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention so as to place the application, as a whole, into a prima facie condition for allowance. Great care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new subject matter into the application as a result of the foregoing modifications.

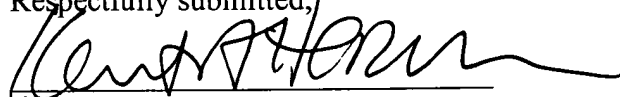
Accordingly, the purpose of the claimed invention is not taught nor suggested by the cited references, nor is there any suggestion or teaching which would lead one skilled in the relevant art to combine the references in a manner which would meet the purpose of the claimed invention. Because the cited references, whether considered alone, or in combination with one another, do not teach nor suggest the purpose of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the prior art, including the art cited merely of record.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that its claims 1, 3-9, and 11-16 are in condition for allowance at this time, patentably distinguishing over the cited prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and passage to allowance are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney at (515) 288-2500 to discuss the claims in an effort to reach a mutual agreement with respect to claim limitations in the present application which will be effective to define the patentable subject matter if the present claims are not deemed to be adequate for this purpose.

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Respectfully submitted,



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